

Haas-Lillienthal House
2007 Franklin Street
San Francisco, San Francisco County
California

HABS No. CAL-1160

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PHOTOGRAPHS
WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
Western Office, Division of Design and Construction
450 Golden Gate Avenue
San Francisco, California

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PHOTOGRAPH-DATA BOOK REPORT
HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY

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HAAS-LILIENTHAL HOUSE

San Francisco, San Francisco County, California

ADDRESS: 2007 Franklin Street
OWNER: Mrs. Samuel Lilienthal
OCCUPANT: Same
USE Residence

HISTORICAL AND ARCHITECTURAL SIGNIFICANCE

The Haas-Lilienthal house was built about 1886. William Haas, a highly successful wholesale grocer, had a large wooden residence built in a style which is generally Queen Anne, although there are a number of details which suggest the popularity of the approaching Shingle Style and even the later Colonial Revival. Since it has remained in the same family for two long generations (William Haas' daughter, Mrs. Samuel Lilienthal, is the present owner), it represents a continuity of ownership which is unusual in San Francisco. Aside from some interior and exterior modifications of the original design, this house still gives a definite feeling of late Victorian interest in the picturesque, combined with fine materials. Its large size and excellent state of preservation make it exceptional in an area where numerous fine old houses have since disappeared.

HISTORICAL INFORMATION

William Haas came to America from Bavaria in the 1870's. (He had been born in 1849.) He joined with his older cousin, Kalman Haas, who had already established a flourishing whisky (Cyrus Noble brand) and supply business at 100-102 California Street, corner of Davis. The firm's name was originally Loupe and Haas; it was changed to Haas

Brothers in 1875. After a rigorous apprenticeship in the Mother Lode country, William Haas became a major force in the firm, and its first President. (The firm was incorporated as Haas Brothers only in 1897; William Haas had been manager until that time.) William Haas and his wife Bertha had three children - Florine, Charles W. (second President of the firm) and Alice. William Haas died on May 31, 1916.¹

Haas' San Francisco address, prior to the move into the new residence at 2007 Franklin, was 1611 Sacramento Street. Langley's San Francisco Directory for 1887 has the first official listing at the new location; however, it errs in placing the residence at the southwest corner of Franklin and Jackson. It was 80 feet south of this corner.² A photograph, published in the San Francisco News Letter for November 19th, 1887, shows the house in all its glory.³ Already at this date, there was another large wooden residence adjacent to the north. To the south was a vacant lot (see below), which has a problematic building history. Haas purchased this property at some uncertainly known date to add to his existing property of 2007 (the lot corresponded to 2005 Franklin). From water records, it is known that service was connected to 2007 Franklin on October 26, 1886; this seems the likely date of effective completion of the residence.⁴ The photograph of 1887, then, records the newly planted lawn and other greens which had probably been put in during the winter of 1886 and spring of 1887.

As has been stated, Haas purchased the lot which would correspond to 2005 Franklin to enlarge his property to the south - at first with a garden (to the rear of which was a market garden); later, a large garage with rooms above was located at the rear of this lot and connected to the house at 2007 (1929). At 2003 Franklin there still stands a large late Victorian wooden house which was built about 1891.⁵ It has often been said that there was a twin to this residence on the lot at 2005. If this were so, it would have had to be demolished to make way for William Haas' garden enlargement, when he purchased this property at 2005. Nothing definite is known about this supposed twin to 2003; it is quite possible it was never built. (Water Department records do not record clearly houses which have been built and then demolished.)

Alice Haas, one of the three children of William Haas, married Samuel Lilienthal in 1909. Following the death of her father, her brother, Charles W. Haas, became President of the firm. After his death in 1927, her husband - Samuel Lilienthal - became President. (He had joined the firm in 1917.) The Samuel Lilienthals had three children - Ernest, Elizabeth (Mrs. James Gerstley), and Frances (Mrs. Laurence

Stern), all living in 1963. Mr. Samuel Lilienthal died in 1937 at the age of seventy two; Mrs. Lilienthal has continued to occupy the house at 2007 Franklin Street ever since. Her sister, Mrs. Edward Bransten, lives not far away at 1735 Franklin, in a handsome brick residence of 1902. (The San Francisco fire was effectively stopped at Van Ness Avenue, although it lapped over into the block on the east side of Franklin at some points. Thus, both Mrs. Lilienthal's and Mrs. Bransten's houses - on the west side of Franklin - comfortably survived the holocaust.)

NOTES (on Historical Information)

1. Herbert Hamlin's long article in the December 1951 issue of the Pony Express, pp. 1-16, recapitulates the history of the Haas family and its important intermarriages with other notable early business-oriented families of San Francisco.
2. Langley's San Francisco Directory, San Francisco, Francis, Valentine and Company, 1887, p. 555; when water service was connected in 1886, the location was recorded as 80 feet from the corner.
3. Later, this photograph was published in the series entitled Artistic Homes of California, with Britton and Rey artotypes (No. 46), after the original photographs.
4. Former Spring Valley Water Company, now San Francisco Water Department; information courtesy of Mr. James Maxwell. Duffy Brothers were the contractors for the plumbing.
5. Water Department records; Mrs. Weiland was the owner, and Duffy Brothers were the contractors.

SUPPLEMENTAL SOURCES AND MATERIAL

Books:

- Baird, Joseph A., Jr., Time's Wondrous Changes; San Francisco Architecture, 1776-1915, San Francisco, California Historical Society, 1962, p. 46.

Langley's San Francisco Directory (for the year commencing May, 1887), San Francisco, Francis, Valentine and Company, 1885, p. 555.

Woodbridge, John and Sally, et al, Buildings of the Bay Area, New York, Grove Press, 1960, unpaginated (under Pacific Heights, Section 6 SF).

Interviews:

J. P. Hunter interview with Mrs. Samuel Lilienthal, ca. 1959.

J. A. Baird interview with Mrs. Samuel Lilienthal, September 1963. (Both interviews resulted in notes and drawings of the house)

J. A. Baird interview with Mr. Ernest Lilienthal, October 1963.

Newspapers and Periodicals:

Pony Express, Vol. XVIII, No. 7, No. 211 (December 1951) pp. 1-16.

San Francisco Chronicle, July 3, 1960 (cover of Sunday Bonanza Section; watercolor by John Meigs of house's exterior).

San Francisco News Letter, November 19, 1887 (photograph of house; also issued separately).

ARCHITECTURAL INFORMATION

EXTERIOR

The Haas-Lilienthal house is essentially a two-story house, with high basement and large attic story. At the southeast corner is a lofty rounded tower with pointed, conical roof; this tower has an additional story (room) above the attic, reached by an interior stair. The house was built of native wood, painted. (It is now a formal dark gray color.) The foundations are of brick, as are the chimneys - whether exposed in their natural material or sheathed in wood. The first story (main floor) is covered with horizontal wood siding about eight inches wide; the second story is covered with shingling, but with strong horizontal divisions about four inches apart. The third story is covered with scale-like shingles, which extend up into the multiple gables of the roof. The corner tower was originally covered with the same shingling on wall and conical roof, with a combination of scale-like and regular shingles on the adjacent gable

roof surfaces. Some of this has been replaced with 20th century asphalt sheet roofing, simulating shingles.

The wood trim of the exterior is richly carved into a variety of Victorian and incipient Colonial Revival forms - the Mannered profile of rectilinear forms contrasting with the lush foliation of more Renaissance or Baroque-inspired details. Stained glass panels in the second story windows (in a separate section above the double-hung windows) remind one of the medievalizing tendencies in the Victorian era, and the colorful, irregular silhouette of the house is distinctly picturesque in the manner of many larger buildings of the late 19th century. A balcony, slightly off center in the third floor front, suggests the story-book quality of many of these great houses of the 1880's - which soon gave way to either renewed interest in formality of plan or the functional freedom of the 20th century. A two story annex was joined onto the cat-a-cornered southwest angle of the house in 1929; Gardner Daily designed this building with baths and chambers on the second floor and a large garage occupying the space below.¹

The principal modifications of the house itself have been in the form of chimneys and interior fireplaces, added or suppressed. On the south side, one chimney was added - some time before the fire (ca. 1900). This is a tall brick chimney in the center of the south exterior wall; another is an enlarged sheathed chimney (A) between this point and the east front, serving the first two floors. The fireplace in the north wall (near the east front - in the hall) was taken out, and the chimney opposite to the south (mentioned above -A) was enlarged at this time. It is difficult to ascertain the exact sequence and dates of these modifications but in general the first decade of the 20th century would include most of them.² The walls adjacent to the high brick chimney were reworked when it was constructed, principally in the first and second stories, although details of the third story were altered also. Close examination of old and recent photographs provides the best indication of these alterations.

Gray and black marble stairs lead up to the front porch from Franklin Street sidewalk; a handsome fence of wrought iron with granite pillars still remains in situ. (It was extended to enclose the new property purchased to the south by William Haas.) Extremely attractive iron and glass wall lamps frame the main entrance door; these were not on the original house as completed, but would seem to have been added not long afterward. The building is mantled at certain points in wistaria or ivy; but the arresting profile of the architectural details is clearly apparent still.

INTERIOR

Basement: The principal room at this level is the large ball and supper room at the east. Roughly square in shape, it has redwood woodwork and a curving staircase coming down from the first floor in its northwest corner. (It is said that this stair was added after the house was constructed.) In the south east corner is a musicians' alcove, with a fireplace adjacent on the south wall. At the rear of the basement are the furnace room (gas; forced hot air) and waterheater, the laundry, and various storerooms - grouped on either side of a wide corridor which runs west from the ball room. The rear stairs are near the northwest corner, on the north side of the house. An elevator shaft was added, after the original construction, in the well of these service stairs.

First Floor: This is the most sumptuous floor of the house, and shows considerable variation of stylistic treatment, due to its various modifications and redecorations. Inside the front double door is the entrance hall, which originally had its own fireplace (later removed). A five foot high dado of golden oak encircles this space, with brown stencilled leather wall covering above. In the northwest corner is a built-in corner seat, directly next to the main stairs. The floors are of tile (in the vestibule) and marble. To the left of the entrance hall is a reception or living room, with an octagonalizing enlargement at the southeast, in the corner tower. The stylistic character of this room is later than the hall; the dado is of mahogany, about two feet high, and the woodwork is mahogany. The walls are painted yellow, and a more correct classicizing cornice caps the room. On the south wall is the fireplace, with yellow marble front and mahogany trim and mantelpiece. Through a wide opening in the west wall, one enters the next room on this south side of the house. This is another parlor or living room. Here the woodwork is of redwood - a five foot dado, with grass cloth and redwood trim above that. The fireplace is framed in reddish marble and redwood. Sliding doors lead to the dining room, which is more stylistically related to the hall. Here the wood is of oak, with a five foot dado and stamped leather on the walls above. (Some of the wood is simulated oak, although most of the architectural features are genuine.) Large golden oak beams cross the ceiling in an intersecting, squared pattern. Most of the major

pieces of furniture are built-in (the sideboard, etc.) and the fireplace is framed in green marble and golden oak. A fascinating chandelier, of copper and brass, has electrical and gas outlets combined. The last room on the south side of the house, at the west, is the breakfast room. Adjacent to it, at the west, is a pantry; and then at the northwest corner is the kitchen. A long hall leads from the kitchen, back past the service stairs and elevator, a long narrow closet, and the front stairs, to the entrance hall. Oak is again the principal wood in the stair hall. Hardwood floors are used throughout the main rooms.

Second Floor: The front staircase rises to the north, and then runs parallel to the north wall to the west, and again turns to the south when it reaches the second floor. Redwood, painted to simulate oak, is used to panel this second floor stair hall. To the front of the house (east) one passes a small work room on the left (north) as one approaches the master bedroom of the William Haas', across the entire eastern front. (Mrs. Lilienthal has converted this into an informal second floor living room.) Returning to the west, along the south side of the house there is a bath, then two bedrooms with a small bath, ending in an irregularly shaped room used for weaving. This leads to the guest wing with its three bedrooms and baths. A porch bedroom with bath and a smaller bedroom with its own bath, occupy the space at the west of the house proper, partly in the area converted from an original balcony at this point. The service stairs lead to the third floor.

Third Floor: This floor consists of three bedrooms and a bath at the rear, partly used by the present service staff of the house. In the front, is a large attic room and the access to the tower and roof.

NOTES (on Architectural Information)

1. This building was thoughtfully devised to provide a reasonable transition from the occult angle of the southwest corner of the house; an interior corridor links it at the second floor to the house. It was built to accommodate Mrs. Lilienthal's niece and nephew when they came to live with the Samuel Lilienthals, following the death of their father Charles W. Haas. It now serves as a guest wing.

2. A well known decorator, Mr. McCann, supervised these changes. A second floor balcony at the west (rear of the house) was enlarged and enclosed as a bedroom sometime after 1900.

Prepared by,

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May 1964

APPROVED:

Charles S. Pope

DATE: *November 1964*

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Western Office, Design and Construction
National Park Service

Addendum to
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PHOTOGRAPHS

ADDENDUM
FOLLO

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Department of the Interior
Washington, D.C. 20240

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HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY

Addendum to:

HAAS-LILIENTHAL HOUSE

HABS No. CA-1160

Location: 2007 Franklin Street, San Francisco, San Francisco County, California

Present Owner and Occupant: The Foundation for San Francisco's Architectural Heritage

Significance: This well-preserved wood Queen Anne style residence was constructed in 1886 for William Haas, a successful California businessman. A number of details, executed in fine materials, illustrate the impact of Eastlake as well as the Shingle style.

PART I. HISTORICAL INFORMATION

A. Physical History

1. Date of erection: Langley's San Francisco Directory for 1887 shows the first official listing at 2007 Franklin. A photograph of the finished house was published in the San Francisco News Letter on November 19, 1887. Water Department records show that water service began on October 26, 1886. The house was completed at this time.
2. Architect: Not known.
3. Original plans, construction, etc.: William Haas purchased a lot which corresponded to 2005 Franklin to enlarge his property to the south. At first a garden was added, later an addition to the house. Local history says that there was either a duplicate house (reversed on the adjacent lot) or, twin houses at 2003 and 2005 Franklin.
4. Alterations and additions: Several renovations took place just after the turn of the century. A tall brick chimney was added to the entrance of the south exterior wall (c. 1900). An enlarged sheathed wood chimney was also added to serve the first two floors while the fireplace in the north wall was removed. The walls adjacent to the high brick chimney were reworked during its construction, particularly on the first and second stories.

Gardner Daily designed a two-story annex in 1929 which provided additional bedrooms and baths on the second floor and a garage on the first floor.

- B. Historical Context: The residence was constructed for William Haas in 1886, a member of the wholesale firm of Haas Brothers Incorporated. William Haas was born in Breckendorf, Bavaria, in 1849 and emigrated to the United States with his parents and

brother in 1864. Mr. Haas lived in New York City, Mississippi, and Idaho before arriving in San Francisco in 1868. He soon entered his cousin's import, export, and wholesale whiskey and grocery business known as Haas Brothers. After serving as the firm's agent in the mining district of the Mother Lode country, he returned to San Francisco and in 1879 became first president of the company.

In 1909, Mr. Haas married Bertha Greenbaum, a resident of San Francisco. Florine, their first daughter, married Edward Branstein; and Alice, their younger daughter, married Samuel Lilienthal. Charles, Mr. Haas' son, entered his father's business and succeeded his father as president of the firm. After Charles' death in 1929, Mr. Lilienthal became the president of the company. Mr. and Mrs. Lilienthal established residency in the house at this time. Mr. Lilienthal served as president of the Federation of Jewish Charities and was a former member of the Board of the San Francisco Chamber of Commerce.

After the death of Mr. Lilienthal in 1957, Alice Lilienthal continued to live in the house until her death in July 1972.

PART II. ARCHITECTURAL INFORMATION

A. General Statement:

1. Architectural character: The Haas-Lilienthal House is a well-preserved, wood Queen Anne structure which demonstrates variety in its composition.
2. Condition of fabric: Very good.

B. Description of Exterior:

1. Foundations: Brick.
2. Walls: The exterior walls are wood, painted grey. Most of the wall surface is clapboard with imbricated shingles at the attic. Carved wood panels with a rosette at the center and radiating wood strips are located near some of the windows at the second and attic stories. Elaborate wood trim is used to distinguish between floors: dentils, two kinds of rosettes (one with a fluted edge and one with a smooth edge), swags, broken pediments, and articulated molding.
3. Entrance, balcony: A stair consisting of two runs of eight and ten risers each leads from the Franklin Street sidewalk to the main entry. A black wrought iron fence with granite base and pillars encloses the property. There is a recessed balcony at the attic.

4. Chimneys: The remaining original brick chimney is located at the center of the house, midway between the south and east walls, and serves the first and second floors. A brick chimney added about 1900 is situated at the center of the south wall. Both have brick corbel courses at the top.

5. Openings:

- a. Doors and doorways: A richly carved one-bay entrance porch supported by two columns, placed on either side of the facing balustrade, protects the door.
- b. Windows and shutters: A complex fenestration scheme consists of twelve double-hung sash 1/1 windows throughout the first story. The second story uses sixteen double-hung sash 1/1 windows as well. Three leaded glass panels located above the curved windows accentuate the round corner tower. The tower at attic level contains two double-hung sash 1/1 windows with pedimental heads. The cellar windows are also double-hung 1/1 sash types.

Windows on the second and attic floors have moldings. Some windows on all three floors have rosettes above the top sash. The two windows at first floor level at either side of the tower have broken pediments and small consoles.

6. Roof:

- a. Covering, shape: The roof, covered with asphalt shingle, consists of four gables which intersect a long rectangle.
- b. Cornice, eaves: The area beneath the gables at attic level is accentuated by a repeating design on all four gables. The triangular area at the apex contains carved wood rosettes supported by wood brackets. The gable itself is supported by vertical louvered brackets about the same size as the attic windows.
- c. Towers: A round tower with a conical roof is located at the southeast corner of the house. The roof and lower portion are covered with asphalt shingle. The decorative scheme consists of an upper band of rosettes placed above a wider band of rosettes.

- C. Description of Interior

See May, 1964 HABS written report.

PART III. SOURCES OF INFORMATION

A. Bibliography:

1. Primary and unpublished sources:

Historic American Buildings Survey.
Report dated May, 1964.

National Register of Historic Places.
Nomination entered July 2, 1973.

2. Secondary and published sources:

Langley's San Francisco Directory, 1887, p. 555.

San Francisco News Letter, November 19, 1887.

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Survey
October 1984

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